

REASONS Humbly Offered for Marking and Distinguishing Alamodes and Lustrings wrought in any Foreign Parts from those wrought in England.

I. **N**otwithstanding the various Laws which have been made against the Importation of all Goods of the Growth and Manufacture of *France*, yet it is notoriously known, as hereunder demonstrated, That very great Quantities of *Alamodes, Lustrings, &c.* have been Imported under the Name of *Dutch* or *Italian* wrought Silks, which were no other than *French*; whereby that Kingdom have made a great Profit, and this Nation a considerable Loss.

II. This Clandestine Trade is of late years most in the hands of *French* Papists, *Jews*, and Persons that steal the Duties of near all what is Imported, and but seldom Enter at the *Custom-House* some small quantity, and that as Fabricated in *Holland*, (though it's known that in Reality they are sent from *Lions* to *Flanders*, and thence to *Holland*, and so into *England* by divers wayes, besides what comes directly from *Callis* by Two small Privateers sent by *VVilliam Pigault* and others, and by the Exporters of *Wooll*, which also are Importers of *Alamodes* and *Lustrings*.

III. Even that small quantity which doth pay any Duty is commonly kept on purpose to be sent for *Ireland*, or the *Englisb* Plantations to draw back most of the said Duty.

IV. It may be judged of what concern to the Nation is the Consumption of *Lustrings, Alamodes, &c.* by the Use of *Hoods, Scarfs, Tippets, Petticoats*, and other Uses by the Women, for supposing that of Three Millions of Females, (as there are computed to be in *England*), that only Three Hundred Thousand use of any of the said Goods, and that their Expence therein amounts one with another to Twenty Shillings per Annum, (which is the least that can be supposed) it Evidences an Expence of Three Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling yearly in those Silks. But by what is Paid to Their Majesties for the Duties, the value consumed should be but Two or Three Thousand Pounds, and consequently the Persons consuming it in *England* but Two or Three Thousand. But it manifestly appears to be infinitely greater, for the very Clergy of this Kingdom consumes six times more.

V. That to Evidence fully the greatness of the Quantity of *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* that comes from *France*, a Seisfure of Sixty Five Pieces made in *Kent* the 12th of *October* last, containing Two Packets of Ten Pieces each, marked *ML*, Number 295, and 296, shews that 2940 Pieces were run before that Seisfure of that Mark, and another Seisfure of 295 pieces lately made in *Sussex*, Evidences by the Marks and Numbers upon the Packets, that many Thousand pieces were also run before, which 360 pieces of both Seisfures were boldly claimed at the *Exchequer* as *Dutch*, but were condemned as *French* Goods, having the Names of the Fabricators upon each piece, and the Seals of the City of *Lions*, than which nothing can be more convincing.

VI. Therefore if the Consumption of *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* is granted to be no less than 1300 Thousand Pounds yearly in *England*, and that according to the Book of Rates, Their Majesties Duties for the said Goods, be 32 per Cent. it Evidences that Their Majesties are deprived of Ninety Thousands Pounds yearly that the Custom of the said Goods amounts unto, which is both True and Surprizing, being proved literally by the *Custom-House* Books, that since the Month of *March*, 1693; to this day, there hath been Imported into *England* only 780 l. weight of the Goods aforesaid, Rated at 40 s. per pound, and the Duties paid amounting only to 487 l. 10 s. whereof part is already drawn back, and probably before the Year be out, the whole shall be so too, and so, little or no Duties remain to Their Majesties, to the great Loss of Their good Subjects.

VII. As those Goods are Fabricated in *France*, and are of small Bulk and great Value, there is more reason and need to endeavour the Ruine of that large Manufacture of the Common Enemy, and encrease that of *England*, by means of a Mark, or any other Method which may be thought most proper to the distinguishing of all Foreign *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* from them that are made in *England*, which will be in effect a Corroborating of the Act that prohibits Commerce with *France*, by taking from the Importers that Colour which they make use of, that the said Goods are wrought in *Holland*, (when any are Seisfed,) whereby they have often Evaded the Effects intended and designed by the said Act.

VIII. Therefore by a Mark of Distinction and others means, which may prevent the stealing the Custom for such as may be Imported by Law, and prevent the *French* of Importing theirs in *England* at this time of War that all Intelligence is given, Their Majesties Revenues will much increase, and great numbers of Poor of this Nation be maintained at work; in that the Royal *Lustring Company* of *England*, having a considerable Fund, have also by their Industry and Charge now brought their Work to such perfection, that they make *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* as well as any made in *France*, and do now Imploy about Two Thousand poor *Weavers, Windsters, Dyers*, and other Tradesmen, who otherways would have been reduced to great Streights, and if it please this Honourable House to grant a further Incouragement to the said Company, having of late the Liberty to bring their Silk by Land, they will employ five times as many poor as now they do, and so work out in *England* such Quantities of *Thrown Silk*, that they will supply *England, Scotland, Ireland*, and our *Plantations*, with *Lustrings* and *Alamodes*, Fabricated by Their Majesties Subjects, and the Duties upon the *Thrown Silk* will amount to great Sums of Money, as may be guessed by what hath already been done by the said Company, since by one Ship only they have paid for their *Thrown Silk* near 460 l. Custom, though the Company is in its Infancy, and none of these Duties are to be drawn back; Contrariwise, when any of their Wrought Silks are Exported, they must pay a further Duty. Besides by the Weaving *Lustrings, Alamodes, &c.* in *England*, great Sums of Money Remitted to *France* will be kept in the Kingdom, whereas the *Thrown Silk* used by the said Company comes from the Duke of *Savoy's* Dominions, and are purchased with the *Woollen* Manufactures wrought in *England*, by which means there is a Reciprocal help to both.

Entries of all Foreign *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* in *England*, for which any Duties have been paid since the first of *March* 1693; to the First of *April*, 1694. as appears by the *Custom-House* Books.

17 June ——— 98 lb weight
7 August ——— 110
14 August ——— 104
9 September ——— 62

18 September ——— 167 lb weight
20 November ——— 128
28 November ——— 111
780



18 December drawn back already 64 lb weight, and till the 28th. November next, none knows what shall remain.